

Remarks:

Claims 44-68 remain in the application. Claim 44 has been amended.

**Remarks addressed to Examiner's Response to Arguments in the Advisory Action of
March 9, 2006**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for attempting to clearly explain his objections. Applicant believes what the Examiner is asserting is that the presentation of an "outcome" of a game played on a gaming machine can be affected by choices made by the player, such as a number of paylines selected in a slot game affects what is presented to the player. Examiner states that "the only way for the first machine's (14) outcomes to be reflected on a second gaming machine (14) is for the first gaming machine to transmit them through the interface circuitry (22) to the second gaming machine (vice versa)." Applicant respectfully submits no such teaching is found in Roffman nor is it needed for Roffman to operate as described.

To play the game, each gaming machine sends player decisions to the controller 12. These decisions may affect the presentation on each gaming machine 14 in relation to the random outputs by provided by the system. As Roffman states, "Random number generator is in communication with and controls gaming machines 14, via interface circuitry 22, such that gaming machines 14 have totally impartial, random outputs as a function of stimuli provided by random number generator 28 (Col. 6:43-48)."

In the system 10 described by Roffman communications are only described between the controller 12 and the gaming machines 14 (see Col. 6:52-67). Communications between two gaming machines (14) whether routed through the controller 12 or directly between the two machines (14) is never described in Roffman nor is it needed as the controller 12 consolidates and determines all of the information that is needed for display on each gaming machine 14. Each gaming machine 14 does not need any knowledge about any other gaming machine in the system 10, such as where to send messages, for the games in Roffman to be played and presented. Remaining claims, prior to amendment in this action recite limitations, such as, the first master gaming controller is designed or configured "to send the second outcome to the first gaming machine" and the second master gaming controller is designed or configured "to send the second outcome to the first gaming machine." In Roffman, these limitations are not taught or suggested.

Nevertheless, for the purposes of facilitating prosecution and clarification, remaining claims as amended recite limitations, such as, "wherein the first outcome includes a first random component generated independently of input received at the first gaming machine by the first master gaming controller" and the first master gaming controller is designed or configured "to send the first outcome including at least the first random component to the second gaming machine." Similar limitations are described in regards to the second gaming

Attorney Docket: IGT1P024C1/P-247 CON

machine. In Roffman, as discussed in response to the office action of October 24, 2005 and the response above, the gaming machines (14) are not operable to generate random output. Therefore, because the gaming machines in Roffman don't send communications to one another and don't provide random output, Roffman can't be said to anticipate or render obvious claims as amended.

In the Drawings

The box in regards to drawings was checked on office action but not the box indicating they were accepted or not.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (Previously generated in response to Action of October 24, 2005)

The Examiner rejected claims 44-47, 51-55, 57-63 and 66-68 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Roffman, et al. (US patent No. 6,375, 568). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention, as described in the pending claims, recites a gaming system comprising a first gaming machine and a second gaming machine. The first master gaming controller on the first gaming machine is designed "ii) to determine a first outcome for the first game of chance played on the gaming machine," "iv) to receive a second outcome for a second game of chance played on a second gaming machine wherein the second outcome for the second game of chance is generated on the second gaming machine," and "vi) to send the first outcome to the second gaming machine." The second master gaming controller on the second gaming machine is designed or configured "b) to determine the second outcome for the second game of chance;" "d) to send the second outcome to the first gaming machine," and "e) to receive the first outcome for the first game of chance played on the first gaming machine wherein the first outcome for the first game of chance is generated on the first gaming machine."

In the system of Roffman, a controller 12 using random number generator 28 generates all the outcomes for the gaming machines 14 (see col. 6:50-50). Thus, in Roffman, the gaming machines do not determine outcomes for a game of chance played on the gaming machine. In the present invention, the first gaming machine and the second gaming machine each determine and outcome. This limitation is not taught or suggested in Roffman.

Further, in system of Roffman, the gaming machines 14 do not send outcomes to the controller 12 or to the other gaming machines 14. In the system of Roffman, the gaming machines 14 only receive an outcome from the controller 12. There is no need for the gaming machines 14 to send an outcome to the controller or another gaming machine 14 because all of

Attorney Docket: IGT1P024C1/P-247 CON

this information is already at the controller 12. In the present invention, the first master gaming controller on the first gaming machine is designed to “iv) to receive a second outcome for a second game of chance played on a second gaming machine wherein the second outcome for the second game of chance is generated on the second gaming machine,” and “vi) to send the first outcome to the second gaming machine” and the second master gaming controller is designed to “d) to send the second outcome to the first gaming machine,” and “e) to receive the first outcome for the first game of chance played on the first gaming machine wherein the first outcome for the first game of chance is generated on the first gaming machine.” These limitations are not taught or suggested in the system of Roffman. Therefore for at least these reasons, Roffman can’t be said to anticipate the pending claims and the rejection is believed overcome thereby.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

(Previously generated in response to Action of October 24, 2005)

The Examiner rejected claim 48-50, 56 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roffman, et al. in view of Pierce et al (US patent No. 6, 047, 963). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Pierce shows a gaming machine FIG.1 that provides a slot game with a mechanical pachinko bonus game. Each slot machine receives a wager for a slot game and only shows the outcome of the slot game it has generated. The gaming machines in Pierce do not send outcomes to another gaming machine or receive outcomes from another gaming machine. As described above, in the system of Roffman, the gaming machines also do not do not send outcomes to another gaming machine or receive outcomes from another gaming machine. Therefore, the combination of Roffman and Pierce can’t be said to render obvious claims 48-50 and 56 and the rejection is believed overcome thereby.

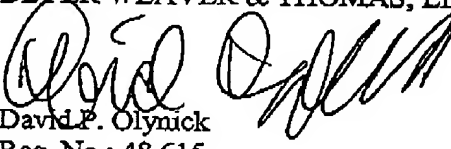
The Examiner rejected claim 64, 65 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roffman, et al in view of Seelig et al (US patent No. 5, 564, 998). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In Seelig, the play of slot games on different slot machines is described (see FIG. 3). Each slot machine receives a wager for a slot game and only shows the outcome of the slot game it has generated. The gaming machines in Seelig do not send outcomes to another gaming machine or receive outcomes from another gaming machine. As described above, in the system of Roffman, the gaming machines also do not do not send outcomes to another gaming machine or receive outcomes from another gaming machine. Therefore, the combination of Roffman and Seelig can’t be said to render obvious claims 64 and 65 and the rejection is believed overcome thereby.

Attorney Docket: IGT1P024C1/P-247 CON

If the examiner believes that a telephone conference would aid the prosecution of this case in any way, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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Attorney Docket: IGT1P024C1/P-247 CON

-10-